

December 19, 2002

(Deta of Daposit)

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Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Borge KRINGELUM et al.

Title:

METHOD FOR SUPPLY OF

STARTER CULTURES HAVING A

CONSISTENT QUALITY

Appl. No.:

09/813,292

Filing Date: 03/21/2001

Examiner:

Ruth A. Davis

Art Unit:

1651

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents Box AF Washington, D.C. 20231

JAN 2 2 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Rejection dated July 19, 2002, concerning the above-referenced patent application. Applicant has enclosed with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely. Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121, please substitute for original claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11, the following rewritten versions of the same claims, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version Showing Changes Made."

(Twice Amended) A method of supplying starter cultures of consistent quality, 1. the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a stock inoculum material comprising a concentrate of starter culture organism cells,